



# Passaic River Investigation Update

PDT Briefing  
November 2, 2005

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INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS AND CONSULTANTS

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# Outline

- Sediment Investigation
  - Geophysical Investigation
  - High Resolution Core Site Selection
  - Core Processing
- Water Column Investigation
  - SPMDs
  - Large volume filtration
  - High flow event
- What's Next

# Sediment Investigation

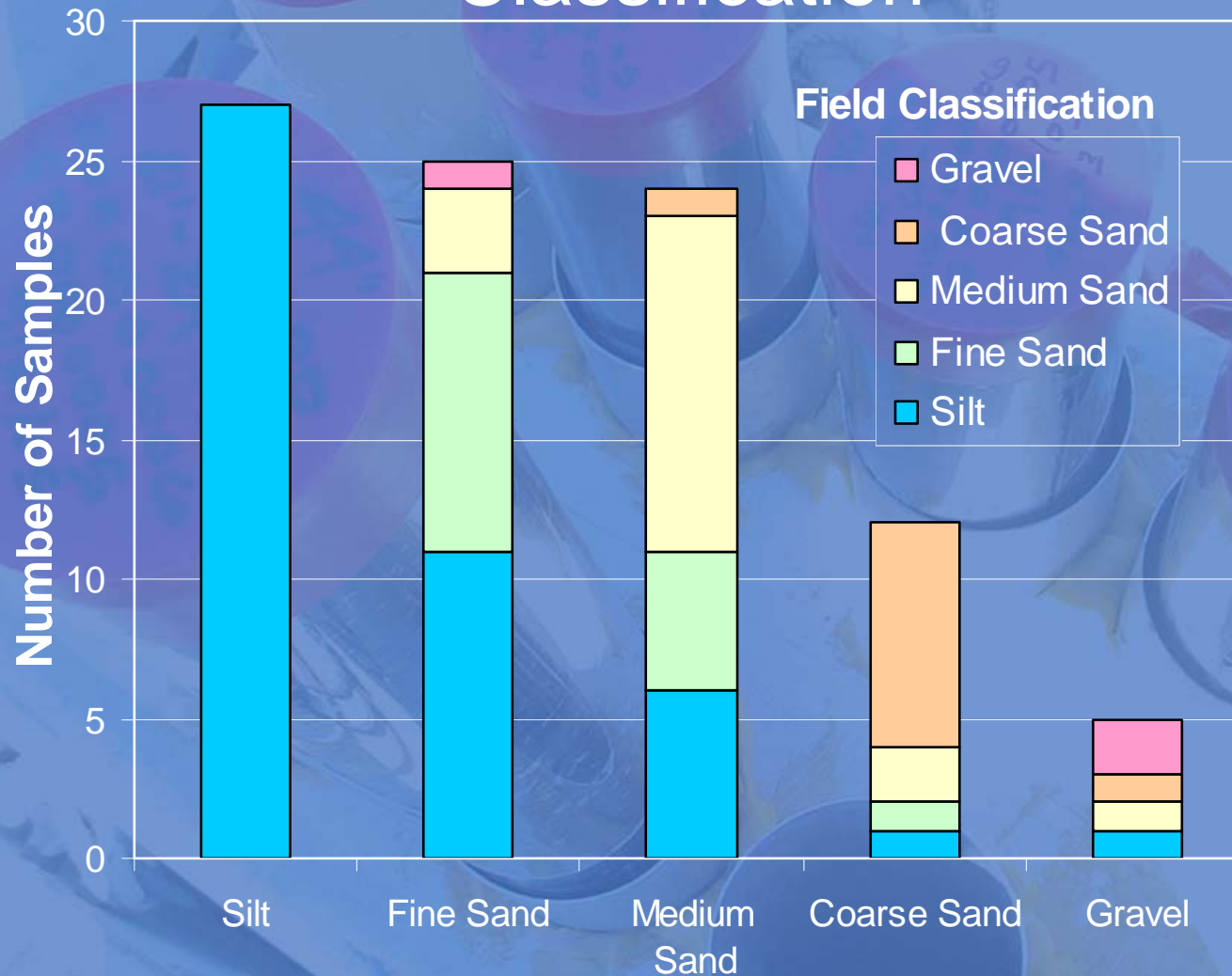
- Geophysical Results
  - Sediment Texture Analysis
  - Geophysical Mapping
  - Extent of Sediment Types



# Sediment Texture Analyses

- Grain size distribution vs field classification
- Grain size distribution vs Side Scan Sonar interpretation
- Field classification vs SSS interpretation

# Grain Size Distribution Results vs. Field Classification



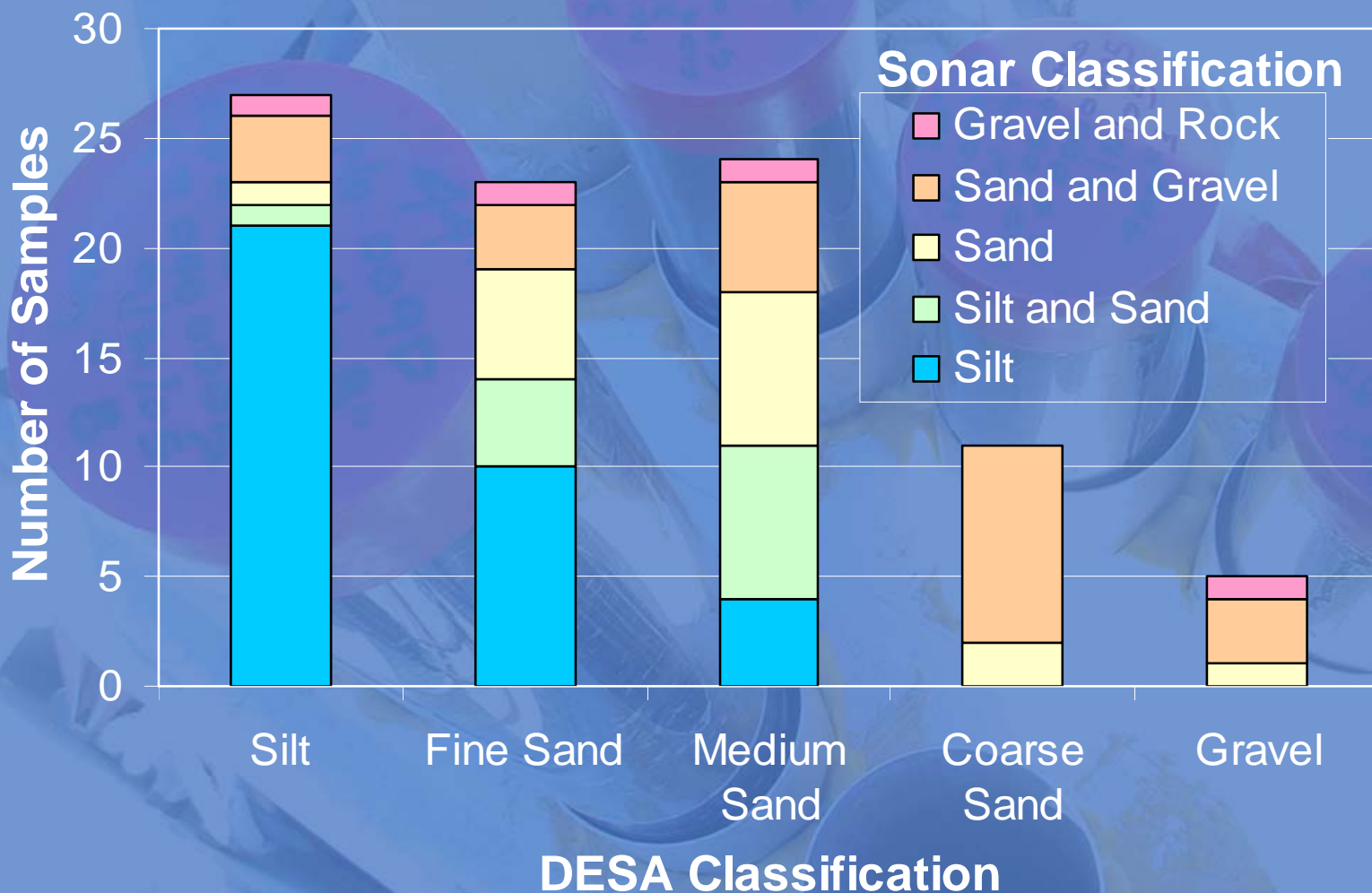
**Grain Size Median Diameter**

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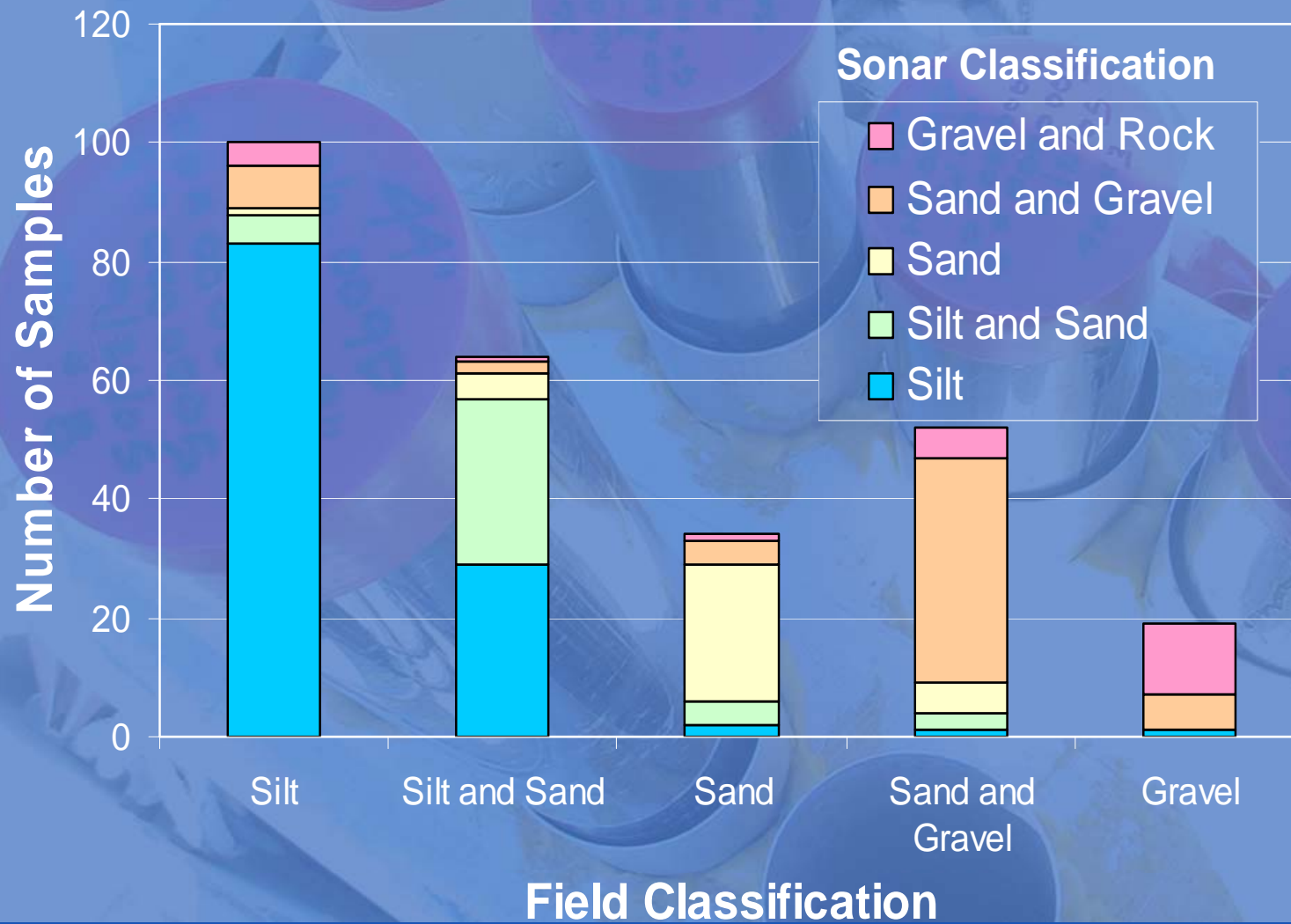


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# Sonar Classifications vs. Grain Size Distribution Results



# Field Classification vs. Sonar Classification



# Side Scan Sonar Observations

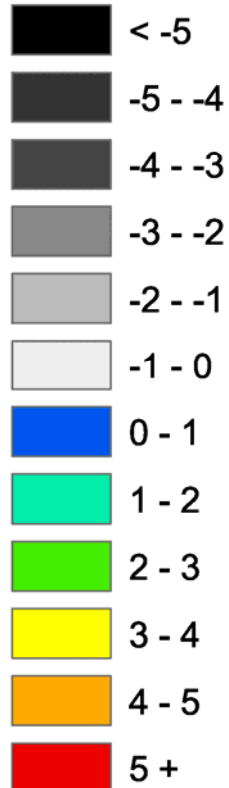
- Preliminary sediment assignments agree well
  - About 70 percent accuracy
  - Probably 3 or 4 true classes
- SSS maps provide a basis to map fine sediments
- Maps of observations



# Comparison of SSS Results and Deposition Rates

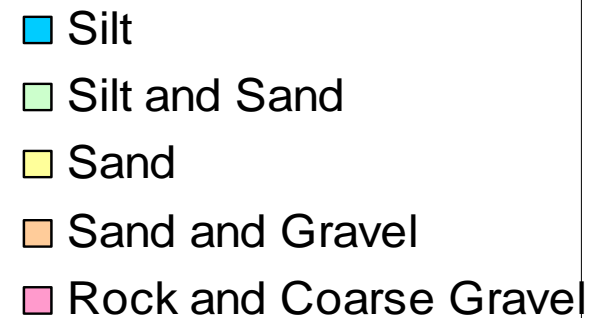
## Legend

Average Rate of Depth Change  
(inches / year)



## Deposition Rate Legend

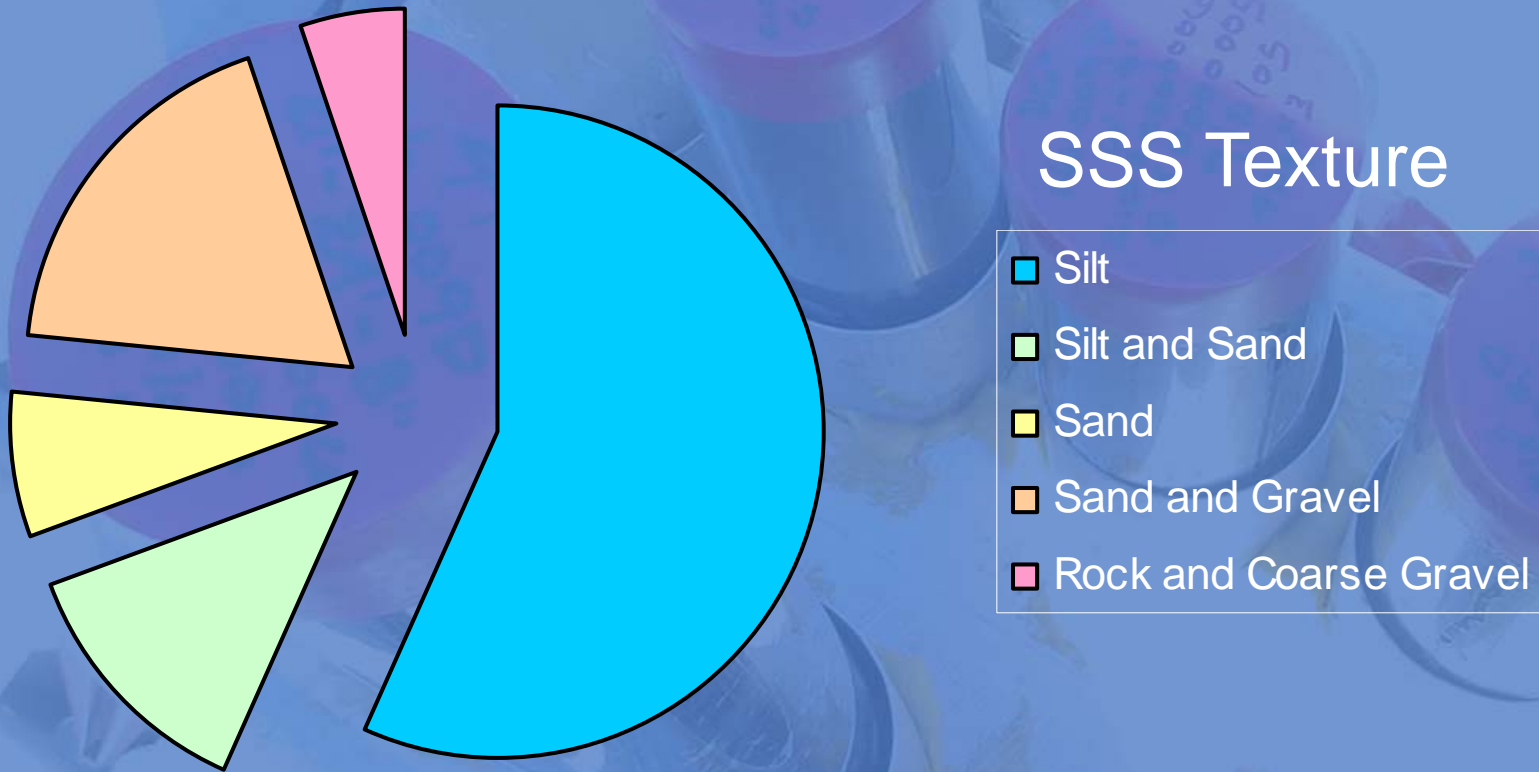
## Sediment Texture Legend



# Maps

- RM 2-3 Deposition
- RM 2-3 Sediment Texture
- RM 12-13 Deposition
- RM 12-13 Sediment Texture

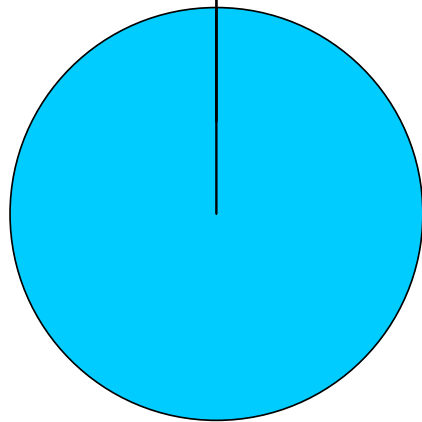
# River Surface Textures RM 1 -16.5



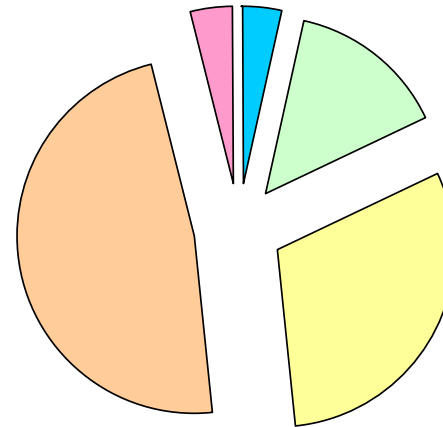
Roughly 800 acres of coverage

# Sediment Texture by River Mile

**Sediment Texture  
RM 3**



**Sediment Texture Data  
RM 12**

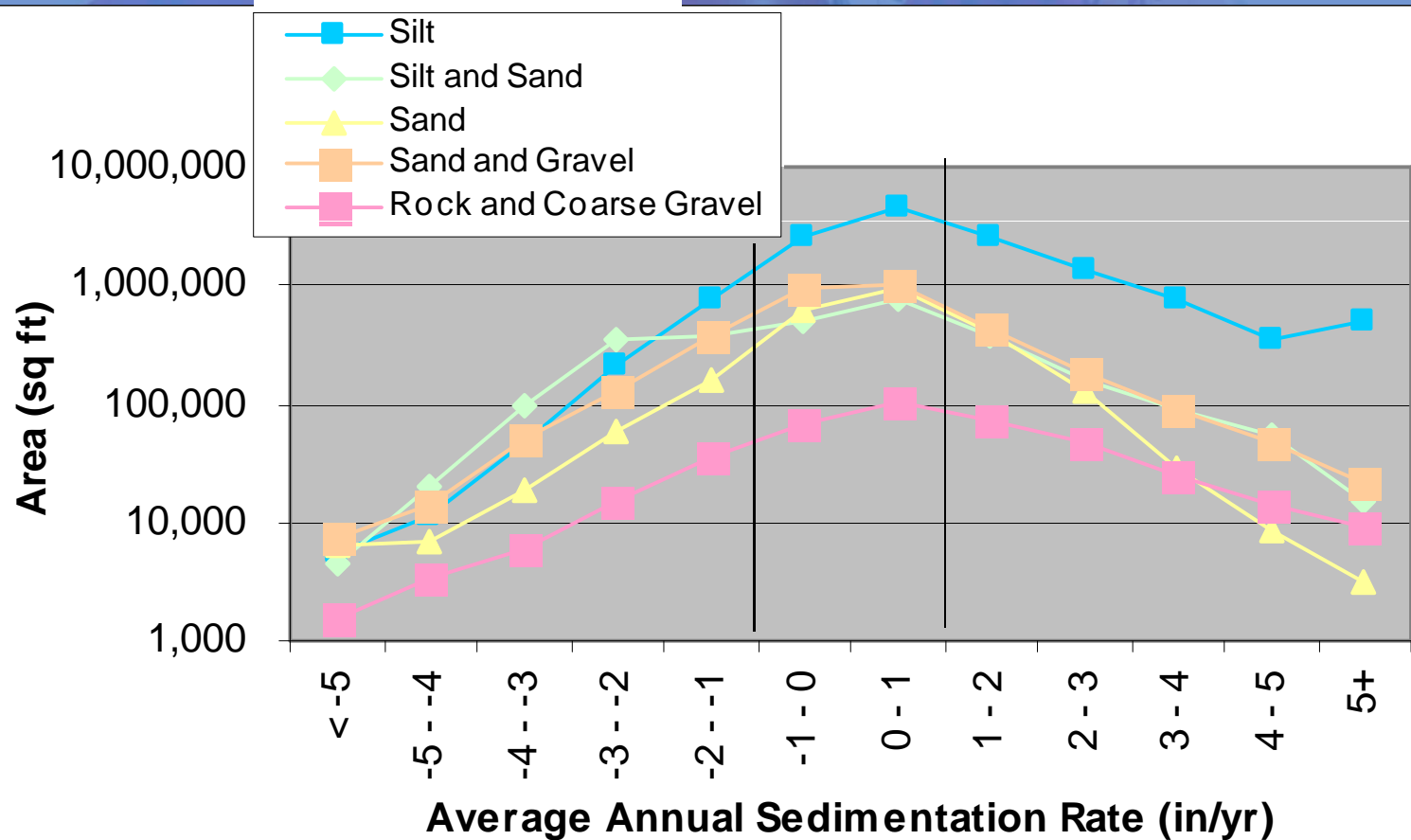


- Silt
- Silt and Sand
- Sand
- Sand and Gravel
- Rock and Coarse Gravel

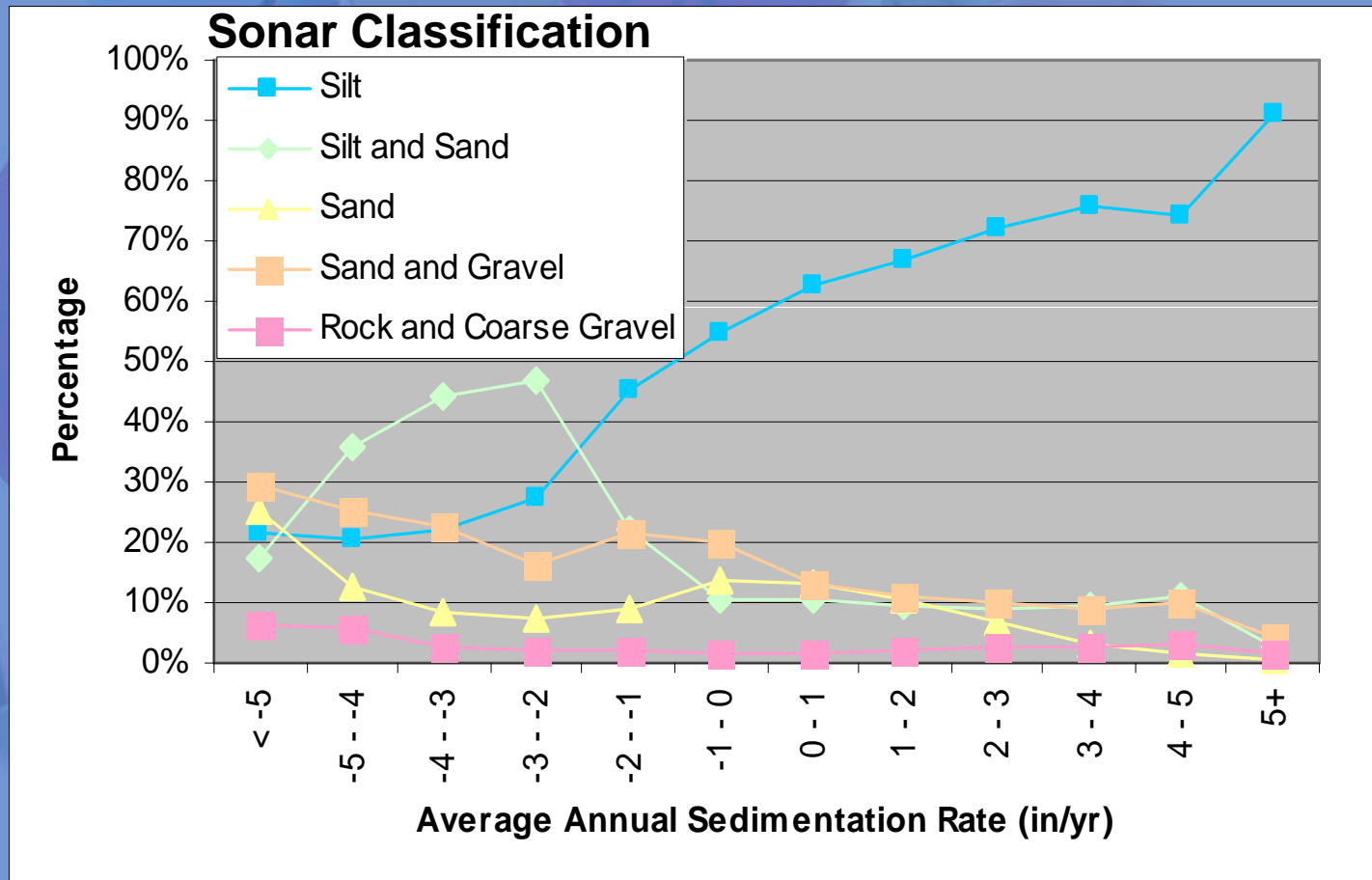


# Deposition Rate vs Texture, by Area

## Sonar Classification



# Correlation of Sediment Type and Average Annual Deposition Rate

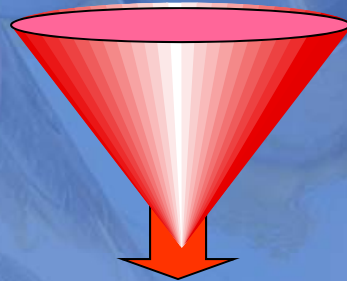


# High Resolution Core Site Selection

Sediment Deposition Rate Maps

Sediment Texture Maps

Historical Data



Be-7 Survey Sites



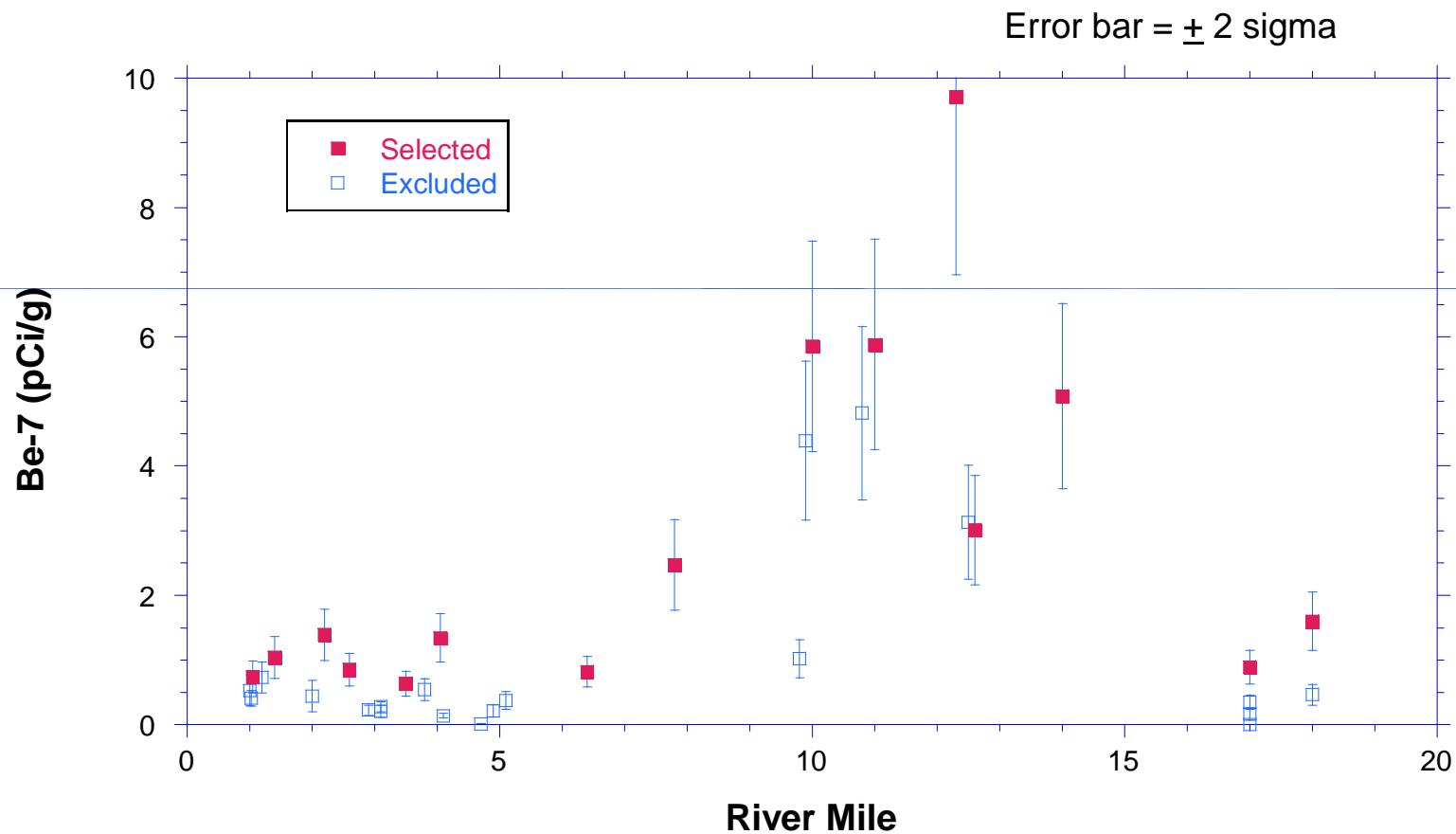
Site Selection

## Be-7 Survey

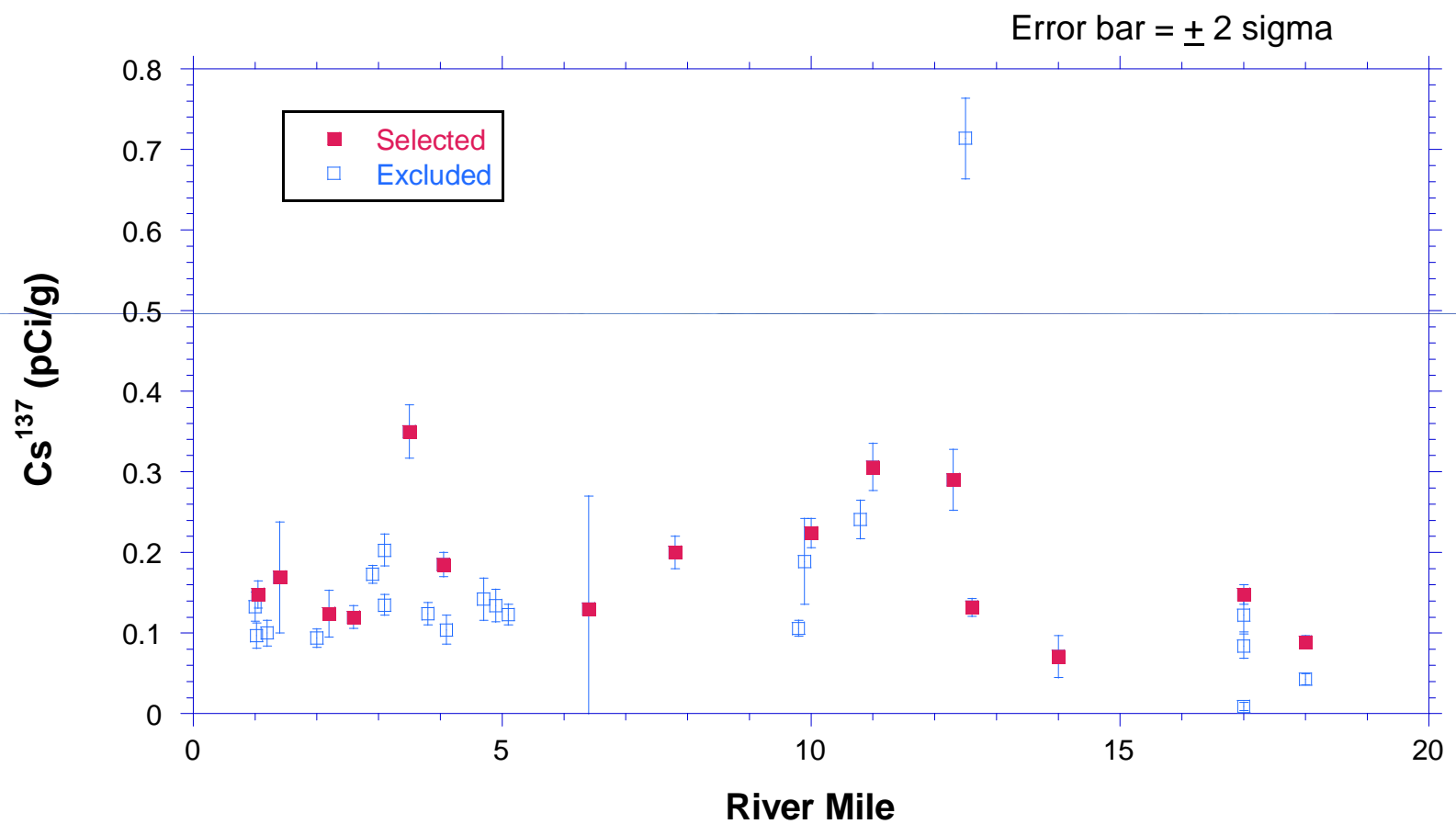
- Survey conducted in early September immediately following receipt of sediment texture maps.
- Achieved 1 week turn-around on samples to enable final core site selection.
- Values as high as 9 pCi/g



# Surface Be<sup>7</sup> vs River Mile



# Surface Cs<sup>137</sup> vs River Mile



# Maps

- Sediment Deposition Rate +  $\text{Be}^7$
- Sediment Texture +  $\text{Be}^7$



# High Resolution Core Site Selection

- Be7-bearing fine sediment identified in many locations
- Core sites available every 2 miles or so to RM 12.
  - Nothing available between RM 12 and 17
- 15 core sites planned from baseline area to Newark Bay entrance.



# Map of Final Core Sites

## Legend

- High Resolution Cores
- All other Cores

0  
Feet

## Legend

- High Resolution
- All other Cores

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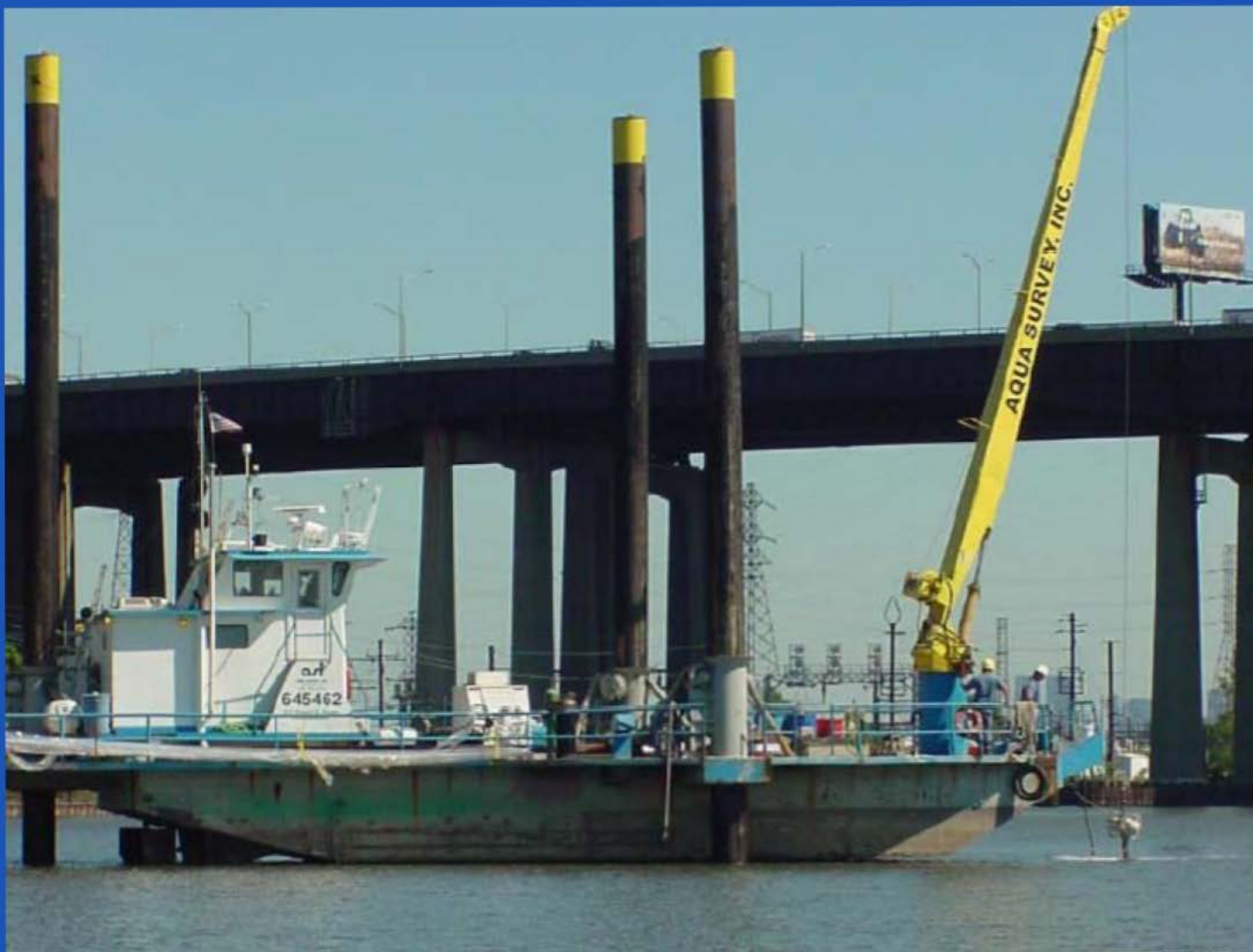
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# High Resolution Core Collection

- Obtained 3 to 4 cores per day
- 4 to 5 cores per location
- 1 to 2 cores for sectioning
- Processed 44 to 88 sections per day
- Processed, labeled, sealed, recorded, stored and/or shipped up to 300+ sample jars per day
- 14 cores successfully obtained
- Sample management via radionuclide screening and sample preservation to reduce costs





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# Semi-Permeable Membrane Devices (SPMD)

- Total of 2 deployments, 8 stations each
  - 4 tributaries
  - 4 main stem stations
- 1st deployment Week of Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005
- Second deployment in this week.
- Each SPMD canister contains 5 lipid bags to provide enough volume for analysis of : PCB Congeners, Dioxin/furans, PAHs, Pesticides.

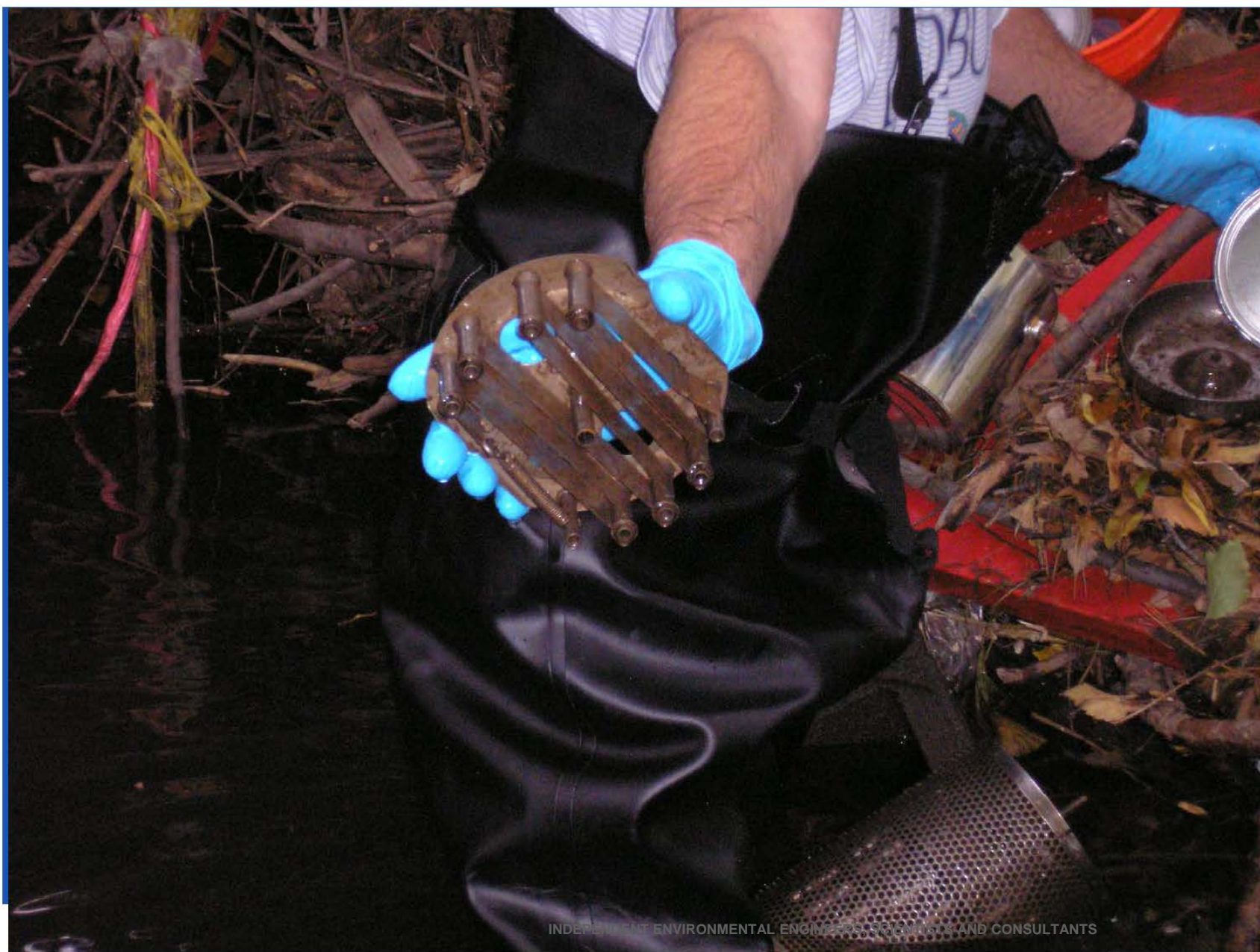
















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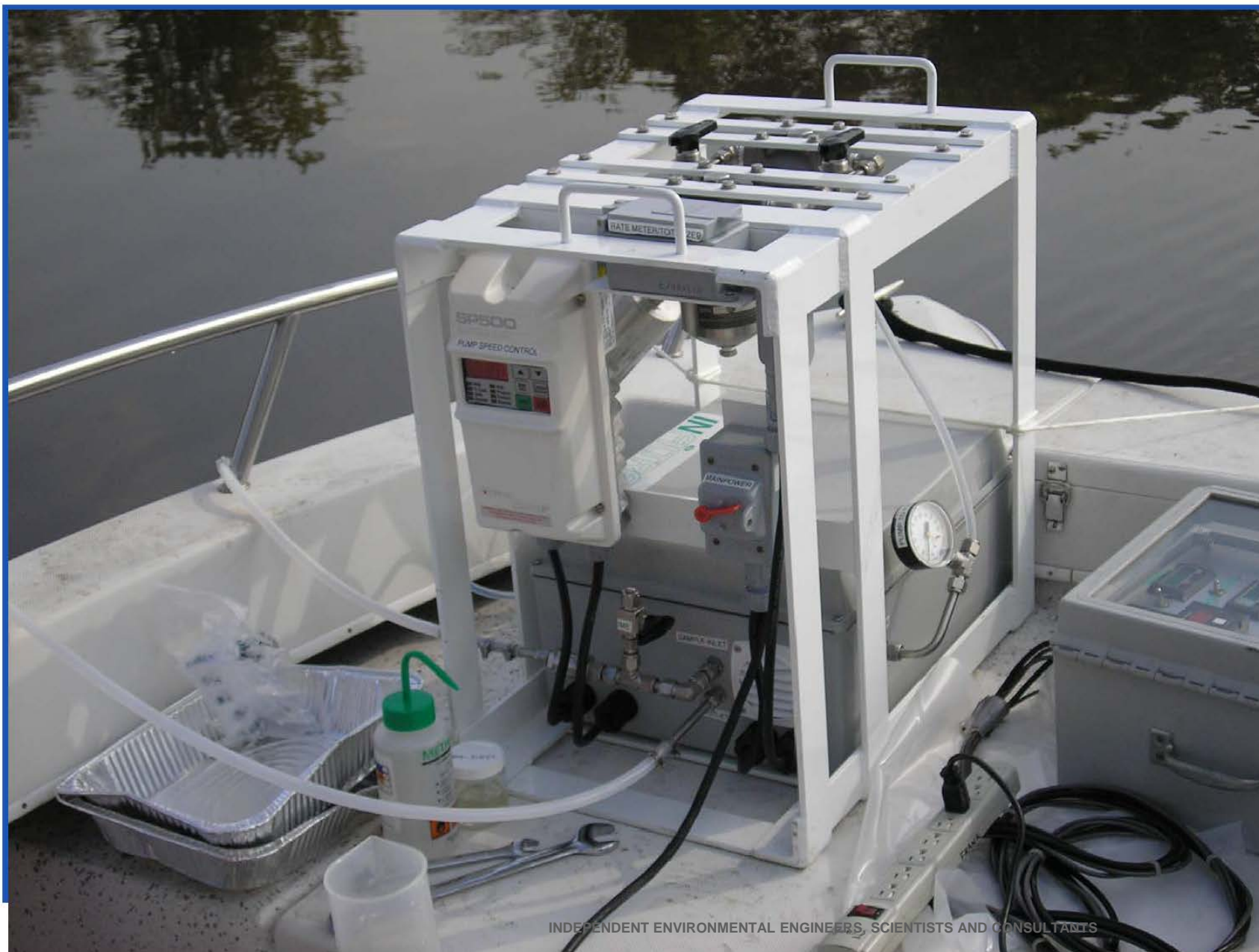


# Large Volume Filtration Samples

- Two events, 3 stations per event
  - September
  - November
- Six samples/station
  - Large volume dissolved and suspended matter via Infiltrax
  - Large volume dissolved and suspended matter via TOPS (dissolved sample shipped)
  - Large volume whole water (lab to filter and analyze separate phases)
- September event demonstrated need to filter to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$







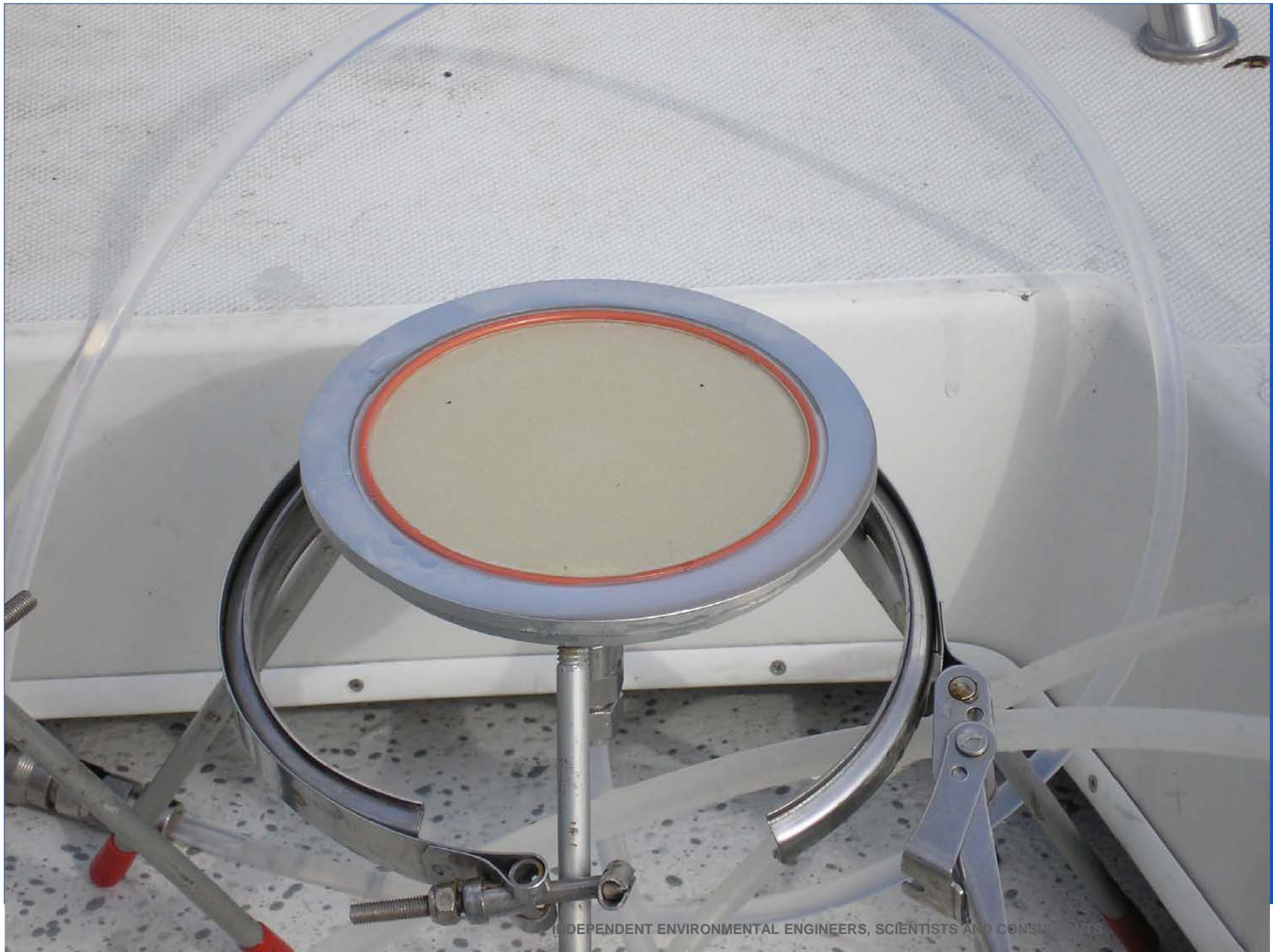
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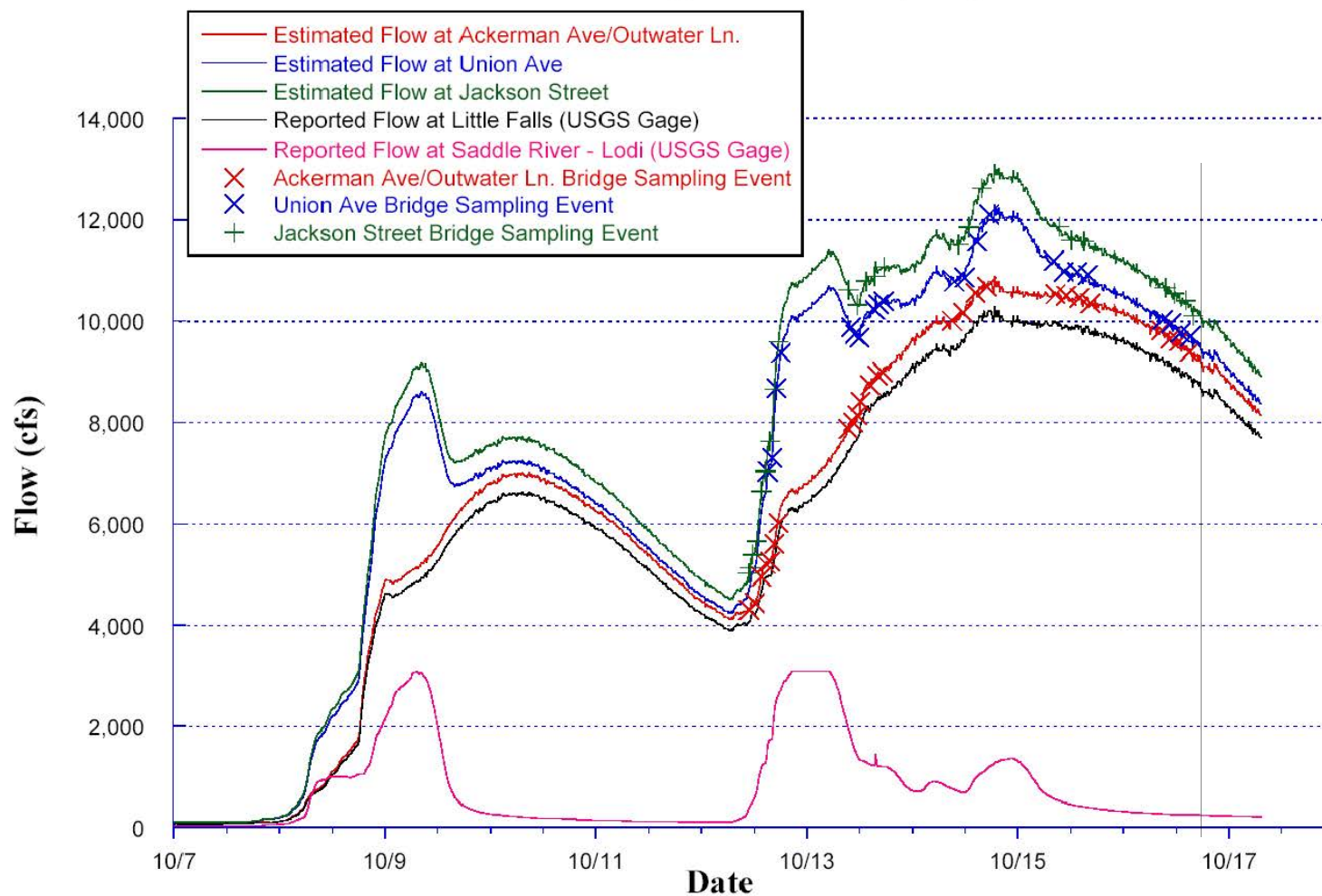
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## Passaic River High Flow Sampling Event



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# What's Next

- High Resolution Cores
  - Complete radionuclide analysis/interpretation
  - Identify cores and samples for further analysis.
    - First samples should ship by Dec 1
  - Data available in spring 2006
- SPMDs
  - Samples retrieved this week
  - Second deployment begins this week
  - Data available this winter
- Large Volume Samples
  - Second round later this month
  - Samples from first event undergoing analysis
- Small Volume Composites
  - Sampling event next Tuesday (flood tide)
  - Ebb tide event to be scheduled in next 2 to 4 weeks